From: Paul Iadonisi
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 6:48pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am opposed to the Proposed Final Judgment in the United States v. Microsoft antitrust case.

I am a System Administrator who has been employed in the computer industry for fifteen years. In those fifteen years, I have seen the results of the illegal monopolistic practices of Microsoft that the company was found to be guilty of by U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson on November 5, 1999.

I have seen products discontinued by companies who had difficulty breaching the high barrier to entry that Microsoft has consistently kept artificially high. In many cases, the discontinuation of these products harmed the businesses I was employed by.

I have seen companies who I was employed by place less and less emphasis on quality and security in their products and instead focus on become partners with Microsoft to the exclusion of competitive technologies. This has occurred even in cases where the non-Microsoft technologies were of significantly higher quality than their Microsoft counterparts. In at least one case, I was personally harmed by these decisions through a reduction-in-force that was clearly aimed at those who did not agree with the decision to use Microsoft technologies.

All of this could not have occurred were it not for Microsoft's illegally obtained monopoly position. The current Proposed Final Judgment does little to penalize Microsoft for its behavior and little or nothing to prevent future abuses. The Proposed Final Judgment in fact codifies Microsoft's behavior into law.

I strongly urge the court to reject the Proposed Final Judgment currently in consideration and instead work with the nine states who have refused to enter into the agreement for their alternate settlement proposal.

Any proposed remedy should have little or no input from Microsoft. The convicted criminal should never have a say in what punishment he should endure. I am disappointed that the Department of Justice has capitulated to so many of Microsoft's demands in the current Proposed Final Judgment and I urge the court to refuse to accept this agreement.

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-Paul Iadonisi Senior System Administrator Red Hat Certified Engineer